

MotorcycleBeginners.Com

Date			
Principal			
Address			
Phone		Fax	
Make		Model	
Year		Size	
Cost			

First (Over-the-Phone) Questions:

1. What is the general condition of the bike?
2. What is the history of the bike, and how was it used? Raced?
3. Has the bike been tipped or crashed?
4. Do you have the documentation? Title, tags, repair/service history?
5. What is the mileage on the bike?
6. What repairs and maintenance have been performed? (If mileage over 30K, clutch changed? How often oil changed?)
7. What enhancements/modifications have been made?
8. What repair does the bike need now? Anything wrong with it?
9. What "extras" come with the bike?
10. Why is the bike being sold?

Quick check at the seller's:

- Does title match bike (tags, odometer, VIN?) Lien on title?
- Does wear & tear match age/mileage/use?
- Generally clean and straight?
- Maintenance history? Include receipts for parts/oil/work done?

FROM THE TOP:	
Brake fluid level in reservoir? Cracks on mounting? Cable adjustment screw OK?	
Clutch lever OK? Cracks in mounting? Cable adjustment screw OK?	
Look nasty, with cracks and scratches?	
Signs of impact damage?	
Welds look OK?	
Cracks? Look at triple tree, frame	
Gas cap works?	
Dents in gas tank from accident/drop?	
Rust in gas tank?	
Gas dark? How much in tank?	
Seat cover intact? Cover material OK?	
Seat locking release OK? Works with ignition key?	
Seat stable, latches OK?	
Original seat?	
Battery level OK?	
Battery posts clean?	
Battery and cradle OK, clean, no cracks?	

FRONT	
Pump suspension. Return to position after 2 ½ strokes?	
Chromed fork legs show no sign of oil?	
Fork seals ever changed (after 15-20,000 miles)?	
Look symmetric?	

REAR	
Pump suspension. Return to position after 2 ½ strokes?	
Look symmetric?	

BOTH SIDES	
Wheels round, smooth, not dented?	
Spokes OK?	
Tires have tread? (Lincoln penny rule: top of Abe's head shouldn't show when top of penny is inserted into tread)	
Sidewalls OK?	
Tires with rough edges, balled-up rubber buildup suggests racing.	
Tires OK on edges, but completely smooth in center suggests burn-out; look closely at other care of bike.	
Tire pressure OK?	
Brake wear indicator visible? Brake cable has some slack?	
Scoring in brake disks?	
Shocks: bushing OK? Leaking?	
Springs: Breaks or cracks?	
Signs of impact damage?	
Welds look OK?	
Cracks in engine mounts, front fairing bracket (if any), frame...	
Motor mount bolts OK?	
Fasteners look stripped or gouged?	
Footpegs match?	
Wiring harness looks redone?	
Rust? Where? (Check exhaust system, subframe...)	

BOTH SIDES	
Dents from accident or drop?	
Belt drive: Condition of belt and sprockets?	
Shaft drive: Leaks?	
Chain drive: Chain aligned?	
• Kinked links when spin back wheel?	
• Rusty?	
• Can you pull back a full link?	
• Sprocket teeth bent/broken/worn?	
Cooling:	
• Air-cooled: Fins OK? Options in way of cooling?	
• Oil-cooled: leaks? Radiator OK?	
• Water-cooled: Leaks? Radiator OK? Coolant pure? Coolant level OK?	
Oil clean? Level OK?	
Engine hot/warm/cold? Why?	
Head gasket: Signs of burned gas (defective head gasket)? Crystallization (water leak)?	
Aftermarket engine cover suggests racing.	
Bolts drilled for retaining wires suggests racing or other heavy use.	
Parallel scratches on engine or bodywork suggest crash if high up (lower scratches may be low turns - ask!)	
Bodywork seams fit OK & appear even? Tabs, &c., may have broken in crash	

LEFT SIDE	
Shift lever OK? Sign of oil leak?	

RIGHT SIDE	
Both brakes trigger brake light?	

SIT ON BIKE:	
Brake power levels after two pumps?	
Bottom out when you sit on it?	
Horn works?	
Lights work? (High/low beam? All idiot lights come on when engine starting? Lights go out appropriately?)	
Signals work?	
Brake lever feels OK? Lever comes all the way to handlebar? (It shouldn't...)	
Rear brake smooth?	
Clutch smooth? Flees like neutral when you roll bike (possibly a little more resistance).	
Levers match? Why not? (Crash?)	
Choke? (Where is it?)	
Kill switch?	
Gas reserve petcock? Does it move?	

START BIKE:	
Starts OK? Twice?	
Idle near 1000 rpm?	
Sound OK? Piston slap on startup?	
Engage clutch. Smooth? Find friction zone OK?	

START BIKE:	
Blip throttle: black smoke (rich fuel mix) or blue smoke (oil in fuel mix)?	
Kickstand cutoff works?	
Engine kill-switch works?	
Engine running: does headlight brighten when engine revved? (It's supposed to...)	

OVERALL:

Do I like this bike enough to pay for it?

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